Seeking of Tourist/Business Visas In Large Number by Foreigners to Visit India

233. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minsiter of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of foreigners obtain tourist or business visas to visit India from various Indian Missions abroad, and if so, the number of such visas issued countrywise during 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(b) what is the broad nature of courtesy extended and assistance provided to these travellers to India at present and what additional facilities are proposed to be extended to them; and

(c) how many indian missions abroad have got special staff to promote tourism in India and to provide assistance and information to the tourists intending to visit India, including the number of such personnel at each Mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes Sir. The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(b) Indian Missions abroad provide tourists with tourist literature and information on India. Business travellers are provided information on India's economic reforms, liberalised economic policies and business opportunities. Missions also assist in setting up appointments and in facilitating the development of business during and after the visit. Provision of additional facilities is constantly under review.

(c) All Indian missions promote tourism to India as part of their normal functioning. In recent years, the staff strength in the Consular Sections of 12 Indian Missions Posts was increased as a special measure for facilitating tourist travel.

ताइवान के प्रधान मंत्री का सिक्किम का गुप्त दौरा

234. **श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 8 जनवरी, 1994 के "इंडियन एक्सप्रेस" (नई दिल्ली) में "ताइवान पी०एम० मिस्टरी सिक्किम विजिट एलार्म बैल्स" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है जिसमें 28 नवम्बर से 4 दिसम्बर, 1993 तक उनका दौरा एक षडयंत्रकारी दौरे के रूप में बतलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है और क्या सरकार को उनके भ्रमण के सम्बन्ध में पहले से जानकारी थी; और

(ग) वह भारत में किन-किन लोगों से मिले हैं और इस सम्बन्ध में ब्यौरा क्या है?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री दिनेश सिंह): (क) से (ग) जी हां। तथाकथित "ताइवान के प्रधान मंत्री" ने भारत की यात्रा नहीं की। इसी नाम के एक ताइवानी व्यक्ति शेललि-आन ने पर्यटक वीजा पर भारत की यात्रा की। इस यात्रा के दौरान कोई सरकारी मुलाकात नहीं हुई।

Reduction of Troops Along Line of actual Control between India and China

235. SHRI RAM DAS AGARWAL: CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and China are going to start soon talks to reduce military troops on both sides from Line of Actual Control in pursuance of the agreement made between Prime Ministers of India and China in the month of September, 1993;

(b) if so, what is the out-come of the above talks; and

(c) whether the forces of the both countries have been reduced to the level of the Agreement?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) In pursuance of the Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity

along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border areas signed during the Prime Minister's visit to China in September 1993, an India-China Expert Group was formed in December 1993 to assist the India-China Joint Working Group (JWG) in its task of implementation of the Agreement. The Expert Group held its first meeting in New Delhi from february 2—4, 1994.

(b) and (c) At the first meeting of the Expert Group, basic agreement was reached on issues related to its mandate, future tasks and methodology. The tasks for the Expert Group, as per its mandate, including the question of troop reduction and other confidence building measures will be taken in subsequent meetings.

Visit of Foreign Diplomats to Punjab and Kashmir

236. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) What is the number of foreign diplomats alongwith the names of their countries, who visited Punjab and Kashmir during the last two years and the names of places visited by them as well as the names of organisations, parties and individuals they met;

(b) whether these foreign diplomats informed the Government of India about their visit to Kashmir and sought permission from it; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) 108. The requisite details are furnished in the enclosed statement. (*See* below)

(b) The foreign diplomats in question had informed the Government of India about their visit to Kashmir. No prior permission was necessary as they did not visit the restricted/protected areas for which prior permission of the Government is required.

(c) As in (a) and (b) above.

Statement

Visit of Foreign Diplomats to Punjab And Kashmir during 1992 And 1993

Sl. No.	Name of country (No. of diplomats)	Name of State visited Punjab/Kashmir (Names of places visited)	Names of organisations/parties/individuals whom met
1	2	3	4
1.	Belgium (1)	Kashmir (Leh).	Development Commissioner and Deputy District Collector and attended festivals of Sotok and Matho.
2.	Spain (1)	Kashmir (Leh).	-do-
3.	Commission of Europe Community (1)	Kashmir (Leh).	-do-
4.	Turkey (1).	Kashmir (Leh).	-do-
5.	Italy (1).	Kashmir (Leh).	-do-
6.	Russian Federation (4).	Kashmir (Jammu, Patni Top), Punjab (Amritsar).	—